

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honorable The House of Commons,
dated 26 June 1849.—*for*,

A RETURN "of the Cost of the following WORKS, printed by Order of the Commissioners of NATIONAL EDUCATION in Ireland; viz.—Biographical Sketches of Eminent British Poets, Chronologically arranged, from Chaucer to Burns; "Selections from the British Poets, Chronologically arranged, from Chaucer to the present time, in Two Volumes;" showing the Amount paid for Compilation or Editing the said Volumes, and to whom Paid; the Total Cost of Printing and Publishing the said Volumes; the Number of Copies struck off; the Average Cost per Copy; and the Prices charged to the NATIONAL and to other SCHOOLS, and to the PUBLIC, for the same."

I. The Amount paid for compilation or editing.	£.43 <i>s</i> . 16 <i>d</i> . See Explanatory Observation, No. 2.
II. To whom Paid - - - -	Mr. Maurice Cross, one of the Secretaries to the Board of National Education. See Explanatory Observation, No. 1.
III. Total Cost of Printing and Publishing said Volumes.	This cannot be accurately ascertained until the second volume of the Poetical Selections (now nearly ready) shall have been completed. See Explanatory Observation, No. 3.
IV. Number of Copies struck off - - -	Of the "Biographical Sketches," 2,000 copies. Of the "Selections from the Poets," 5,000 copies.
V. Average Cost per Copy - - - -	Estimated by the Commissioners at little more than 1 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per Volume. See Explanatory Observation, No. 3.
VI. The Price to National Schools - -	Sixpence per Volume.
VII. The Price to other Schools for the Poor -	Eleven-pence per Volume.
VIII. The Price to the Public - - - -	One Shilling and Eight-pence per Volume.

OBSERVATIONS EXPLANATORY of the above RETURN.

THE Commissioners of National Education in Ireland having long considered that a Work containing Selections from Eminent Poets, accompanied by Biographical Sketches of their Authors, would be useful to the National Teachers, and to the higher classes in their Schools, and some of the Inspectors having suggested that a Work of that description should be published by the Board, directions were given on the 17th September 1845 for its preparation.

1. Mr. Maurice Cross, one of the Secretaries to the Commissioners, having had some experience in literary compilation as the Editor of the "Selections from the Edinburgh Review," was requested to compile (after the hours of official business) Selections from the Poets, with Biographical Notices, and to submit the Work, when prepared, to the Commissioners for their approval. In soliciting Mr. Cross to execute this undertaking, the Commissioners followed a practice which they have adopted in many other instances, namely, of employing one of their own officers, in whose literary qualifications, judgment and discretion, they had confidence, to compile a publication which, after full deliberation, they thought would be useful to the Teachers and Pupils of the National Schools in Ireland, and of other Schools for the Poor, unconnected with the Board.

2. The amount paid to the Editor for compiling the Work, which is in three volumes, containing sixty-two sheets, exclusive of Prefaces and Indexes, was 43*s*. 16*d*. This scale of remuneration is precisely the same as that by which the remuneration of other gentlemen has been regulated, when the Commissioners have engaged to prepare National School Books, consisting partly of original and partly of compiled matter. The Editor has no interest in the sale of the Work, which is the exclusive property of the Commissioners.

3. The total cost of printing and publishing the said volumes cannot be accurately ascertained, until the second volume of the Poetical Selections, which is nearly ready for publication, shall have been completed. Calculating, however, the cost per sheet on bringing out these other Works, which are printed in the same description of type, on the same quality of paper, and bound in a similar way, the Commissioners expect that the price at which these volumes will be sold to Schools not connected with themselves, and to the Public generally, will yield a small profit, after the expense of compilation and corrections incident only to the first edition shall have been defrayed. On every subsequent edition, the average cost per copy, upon a rough calculation, will not, it is supposed, much exceed 1*s*. 6*d*.

4. Of the Biographical Sketches, 2,000 copies have been struck off, and 5,000 of the Selections from the Poets. Considering the large and increasing demand for the National School Books, this is deemed by the Commissioners to be a small edition, and will in all probability be speedily exhausted.

5. The price charged to the National Schools in Ireland will be 6d. per volume, leaving it optional with the purchaser to buy each Volume or the whole Work. The books published by the Commissioners are sold to National Schools at a little above the half of the cost of production.

6. The price to other Schools for the Poor, not under the Board, will be 11d. per volume, and to the Public 1s. 3d. A small increase will be made to these prices, if it should be found, after the printer and binder have furnished their accounts to Her Majesty's Stationery Office, that the total expense of printing and publishing the Work has exceeded the sum estimated by the Commissioners.

7. The Work has been carefully revised and corrected by the Commissioners, and has received their approval. It has been printed and bound in accordance with the terms of the contract for printing and binding all the other National School Books.

By Order of the Board,

Education Office, Dublin. }
July 1843.

Maurice Crow, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

RETURN of the Cost of the following Works,
'Biographical Sketches of Eminent British Poets,'
'Chronologically arranged, from Chaucer to Burns,'
and 'Selections from the British Poets, Chrono-
logically arranged, from Chaucer to the present
time,' published by the Commissioners of
NATIONAL EDUCATION in Ireland.

(Mr. Grogan.)

Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed
19 July 1843.